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Crime prevention and criminal justice

Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report contains information on action taken to implement General Assembly resolution 66/179. In particular, the report provides a brief overview of the deliberations at the twenty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on issues pertaining to the preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The report also contains information on the approval by the Commission at its twenty-first session of the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, for adoption, through the Economic and Social Council, by the General Assembly.

* A/67/50.



1. In its resolution 66/179, entitled "Follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice", the General Assembly took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2011/15) and reiterated its invitation to Governments to take into consideration the Salvador Declaration on Comprehensive Strategies for Global Challenges: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Systems and Their Development in a Changing World (General Assembly resolution 65/230, annex) and the recommendations adopted by the Twelfth Congress when formulating legislation and policy directives and to make all efforts, where appropriate, to implement the principles contained therein, taking into account the economic, social, legal and cultural specificities of their respective States.
2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly recalled its resolution 62/173, in which it had endorsed the recommendations made by the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its meeting, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006 (see E/CN.15/2007.6).
3. In that resolution, the Assembly also invited Member States to provide their suggestions in relation to the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its twenty-first session on the suggestions made by Member States.
4. In its resolution, the Assembly also recommended that, in order to strengthen the outcome of future crime congresses, the number of their agenda items and workshops be limited, and encouraged the holding of side events that are focused on and complement the agenda items and workshops.
5. In addition, the Assembly requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to approve at its twenty-first session the overall theme, the agenda items and the topics for the workshops of the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.
6. At the twenty-first session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, delegations underlined the political significance and value of the crime congresses as the largest and most diverse gathering of policymakers and practitioners in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. With regard to the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, speakers placed emphasis on the need for timely and effective planning, as well as close coordination with all parties involved, including the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network. While highlighting the necessity of a narrow scope of agenda items and practical and specific workshop topics, delegations took into consideration the suggested approach of focusing on an outward-looking overall theme on the role of crime prevention and criminal justice in advancing the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015. It was suggested that the high-level segment be held at the beginning of the Congress to enhance the possibility of generating useful feedback. The need to avoid too many parallel

workshops and to benefit from ancillary meetings as vehicles for the exchange of information and views on a wide range of issues was emphasized. Delegates further recommended that the Congress declaration should be concise and linked to the proceedings of the Congress. Furthermore, efficient follow-up regarding the outcomes of the congresses was stressed and, in that connection, speakers welcomed the meeting organized in the margins of the Commission's session by the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network to discuss the follow-up to and modalities for the effective implementation of the Salvador Declaration.

7. As a result of the deliberations at its twenty-first session, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recommended to the Economic and Social Council the approval of a draft resolution for adoption by the General Assembly on the follow-up to the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. In that draft resolution, the General Assembly would decide that the duration of the Thirteenth Congress should not exceed eight days, including pre-Congress consultations, and that the main theme of the Thirteenth Congress shall be "Integrating crime prevention and criminal justice into the wider United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and public participation". The Assembly would further decide that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress shall include a high-level segment at which States would be invited to be represented at the highest possible level, for example by Heads of State or Government, Government ministers or attorneys general, and that representatives would be given an opportunity to make statements on the topics of the Congress.

8. The General Assembly would also decide that, in accordance with its resolution 56/119, the Thirteenth Congress shall adopt a single declaration, to be submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice for its consideration, and that the declaration shall contain recommendations reflecting the deliberations of the high-level segment, the discussion of agenda items and the workshops. It would also request the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of representatives from relevant entities of the United Nations system in the Thirteenth Congress, bearing in mind the main theme, agenda items and workshop topics of the Congress.

9. In the draft resolution to be adopted, the General Assembly would also approve the following provisional agenda for the Thirteenth Congress:

1. Opening of the Congress.
2. Organizational matters.
3. Successes and challenges in implementing comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies and strategies to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and to support sustainable development.
4. International cooperation, including at the regional level, to combat transnational organized crime.

5. Comprehensive and balanced approaches to prevent and adequately respond to new and emerging forms of transnational crime.
6. National approaches to public participation in strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice.
7. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

10. The Assembly would also decide that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress:

(a) Role of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in support of effective, fair, humane and accountable criminal justice systems: experiences and lessons learned in meeting the unique needs of women and children, in particular the treatment and social reintegration of offenders;

(b) Trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants: successes and challenges in criminalization, in mutual legal assistance and in effective protection of witnesses and trafficking victims;

(c) Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to evolving forms of crime such as cybercrime and trafficking in cultural property, including lessons learned and international cooperation;

(d) Public contribution to crime prevention and raising awareness of criminal justice: experiences and lessons learned.

11. The General Assembly would request the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings and for the Thirteenth Congress in a timely manner in order to enable those meetings to be held as early as possible in 2014; and would invite Member States to be actively involved in that process. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Thirteenth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice and in consultation with Member States. In addition, the Assembly would urge participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items on the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the Thirteenth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Thirteenth Congress.

12. The Assembly would call upon Member States to play an active role in the Thirteenth Congress by sending legal and policy experts, including practitioners with special training and practical experience in crime prevention and criminal justice.

13. In addition, the Assembly would emphasize the importance of the workshops to be held within the framework of the Thirteenth Congress, and would invite Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme network for the preparations for

the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material.

14. The Assembly would request the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Thirteenth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress, and would encourage Member States to actively participate in the above-mentioned meetings, as they provide an opportunity to develop and maintain strong partnerships with the private sector and civil society organizations.

15. The Assembly would also encourage Governments to undertake preparations for the Thirteenth Congress at an early stage and by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees. In addition, the Assembly would encourage the relevant United Nations programmes, specialized agencies of the United Nations system and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress.

16. Finally, the Assembly would request the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its twenty-second session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Thirteenth Congress, to finalize in a timely manner all outstanding organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council. The Assembly would also request the Secretary-General to ensure proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the Assembly through the Commission at its twenty-second session.